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EXAMINER

SINGH, SATWANT K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/045,156

Applicant(s)

HITAKA, YOSATO

Examiner

Satwant K. Singh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart et al. (US 6,714,964).

3. Regarding Claim 1, Stewart et al disclose an information processing method in an information processing apparatus for requesting a print order from a print management apparatus via the Internet, comprising: a print data forming step of forming print data by using a printer driver which can set print set information corresponding to a plurality of printers on the basis of a printer information description file (the relevant file information includes, for example, a handle identifying the location of the printer, printer name, job id, printing level, and document information such as color, stapling, etc. After the relevant file information is sent to the port monitor 346, a check is performed to determine whether a valid component (e.g. a print driver 310b) is being used, for example, to print the document) (col. 5, lines 42-51); a print order forming step of forming the print order on the basis of the formed print data and the print set information

set by the printer driver (if the comparison results in a determination that the component (print driver) is valid, then the data file is sent from the print spooler 344 to the port monitor 346) (col. 5, lines 64-67, col. 6, lines 1-7); and an access requesting step of promoting activation of a Web browser and requesting an access to the print management apparatus which can communicate via the Internet (the upload manager 310c then launches a web browser 310d for viewing the document) (col. 6, lines 5-7).

4. Regarding Claim 2, Stewart et al disclose an information processing method, further comprising a printer information obtaining step of obtaining the printer information description file from said print management apparatus via the Internet (the browser 310d, such as Internet Explorer.TM. or Netscape Navigator.TM., is used to download print drivers 310b) (col. 6, lines 33-36), and wherein in said print data forming step, a user interface (configuration wizard) for instructing a print setting is formed on the basis of a print setting described in the obtained printer information description file, and the print set information is set in accordance with instructed contents (after data (i.e. a document) has been selected at 400, the user may configure the settings of the document using a configuration unit (e.g. the item configuration wizard) (col. 7, lines 42-46).

5. Regarding Claim 3, Stewart et al disclose an information processing method, further comprising a shop information obtaining step of obtaining a shop information file describing attributes of a shop (a handle identifying the location of the printer) for printing and outputting the print order from said print management apparatus via the Internet, and wherein in said print order forming step, the print

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order to designate a shop name included in the obtained shop information file is formed (relevant file information (parameters) will be sent from the spooler 344 via the port monitor and upload manager 310a to a web server 320 (e.g. UPJA)) (col. 5, lines 42-51).

6. Regarding Claim 4, Stewart et al disclose an information processing method, further comprising: an input step of, when the print order is transmitted to said print management apparatus, inputting an uploading instruction so that the print order is transmitted to said print management apparatus and managed without being print-processed (Fig. 4) (upload manager 310c compresses the document(s) that has been selected for printing and sends it to the UPJA 320 for storage (preferable temporary at 430) (col. 8, lines 1-4); and an uploading step of, when said uploading instruction is inputted, uploading said print order to said print management apparatus via the Internet (document is sent to printer side 300c where it is stored in a main storage unit, and printed according to the user defined specifications at 440) (col. 8, lines 1-11).

7. Regarding Claim 5, Stewart et al disclose an information processing method, further comprising a print ordering step of transmitting a print ordering request for one or more print orders which were designated by the user and should be print-ordered among the print orders uploaded in said print management apparatus to said print management apparatus via the (Fig. 5) (col. 8, lines 12-25).

8. Regarding Claim 6, Stewart et al disclose an information processing method, further comprising: a list obtaining step of accessing said print

management apparatus via the Internet and obtaining an order list of the print orders uploaded in said print management apparatus; and a preview requesting step of requesting a preview display of the print order instructed by the user from the obtained order list of the print (Fig. 5) (the user is then presented with the option of either viewing their shopping cart and choosing an item (e.g. another document) to be purchased for printing, or can select the number of copies to be printed (422) (col. 8, lines 12-25).

9. Claims 7, 13 and 19 are rejected for the same reason as claim 1.
10. Claims 8 and 14 are rejected for the same reason as claim 2.
11. Claims 9 and 15 are rejected for the same reason as claim 3.
12. Claims 10 and 16 are rejected for the same reason as claim 4.
13. Claims 11 and 17 are rejected for the same reason as claim 5.
14. Claims 12 and 18 are rejected for the same reason as claim 6.
15. Regarding Claim 20, Stewart et al disclose a print management method in a print management apparatus which receives a request for a print order from a client via the Internet, comprising: a printer information transmitting step of transmitting a printer information description file describing print set information corresponding to a plurality of printers to said client via the Internet in accordance with an obtaining request from the client (relevant file information (parameters) will be sent from the spooler 344 via the port monitor 346 and upload manager 310a to a web server 320 (e.g. UPJA)) (col. 5, lines 42-47); a data converting step of data-converting print data described by a page description language included in the print order which is transmitted from the client into a printer

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description language file as a format which does not depend on a printer of a shop (downloading correct printer driver) (col. 5, lines 53-61); and a print order forming step of forming a shop print order for requesting the shop to print on the basis of print set information which is included in said print order and designates a print setting and said data-converted printer description language file (the data file is sent from the print spooler 344 to the port monitor 346. The data file is sent, for example, as packets of information from the print spooler 344 to the port monitor 346) (col. 5, lines 63-67, col. 6, lines 1-3).

16. Regarding Claim 21, Stewart et al disclose a print management method, further comprising: a print order managing step of managing said shop print order in correspondence to user identification information of the client without performing a printing process (Fig. 4) (upload manager 310c compresses the document(s) that has been selected for printing and sends it to the UPJA 320 for storage (preferable temporary at 430) (col. 8, lines 1-4); and a transmission control step of controlling so as to transmit the designated shop print order to the shop which should execute the printing process in accordance with a print ordering instruction from the client (document is sent to printer side 300c where it is stored in a main storage unit, and printed according to the user defined specifications at 440) (col. 8, lines 1-11).

17. Regarding Claim 22, Stewart et al disclose a print management method, further comprising: a searching step of searching the print order to be returned as an order list of the print orders among the print orders managed in said print order managing step in accordance with a request from the client with reference

to said user identification information of said client (viewing shopping cart); and an order list returning step of returning the order list including said searched print order to the client who requested the order list (choosing an item in shopping cart) (Fig. 5) (the user is then presented with the option of either viewing their shopping cart and choosing an item (e.g. another document) to be purchased for printing) (col. 8, lines 12-25).

18. Regarding Claim 23, Stewart et al disclose a print management method, further comprising: a preview image forming step of forming a preview image by data-converting an image of said data-converted printer description language file; and a returning step of returning the formed preview image to said client via the Internet in accordance with a preview request from the client (once the complete file, along with corresponding file information, has been transferred to the server and stored, a browser 310d located at the client 310 is launched at 574. The browser 310d allows the user to view, configure, format, print, etc. the uploaded document) (co. 10, lines 11-15).

19. Claims 24, 28, and 32 are rejected for the same reason as claim 20.

20. Claims 25, and 29 are rejected for the same reason as claim 21.

21. Claims 26, and 30 are rejected for the same reason as claim 22.

22. Claims 27, and 31 are rejected for the same reason as claim 23.

Conclusion

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shiohara, (US 6,804,019) discloses a print data generation system that is compatible with any of a plurality of printers of a printing network.

McCannon et al. (US 6,607,314) discloses a printer attached to a driver routine for updating a printer driver routine.

Salgado et al. (US 2002/0067504) discloses a method and apparatus for automatically updating a printer driver on a computer.

Tenenbaum (US 2003/0182438) discloses methods and systems for providing printing services over a communications network.

Kenney et al. (US 2004/0148335) discloses methods and apparatus for requesting and receiving print jobs over a communications network.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (703) 306-3430. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Satwant Singh

sks

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2626

KA Williams

**KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**